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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/184,587	11/03/1998	HAJIME KOJIMA	826.1515/JDH	4412
21171	7590	05/11/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			ZEENDER, FLORIAN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3627	

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/184,587

Applicant(s)

KOJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

F. Ryan Zeender

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 36 and 37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 36-37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 2/24/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 12, the language, "the witness" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al.

Walker et al show a witness system 200, that receives purchase offers 100 from buyers, transmits the offers to sellers, receives seller responses 110 and transmits purchase confirmation 120 to the buyer and the seller, see col. 20, lines 2-4. The witness system confirms that the documents are accurate in col. 19, lines 32-40 and col. 18, lines 8-14. The witness system authenticates both the buyer and the seller; see col. 24, lines 31-46 and col. 26, lines 47-50. The witness system 200 has databases 265, 270 and 275 that keep track of all the transactions. The witness system includes a

bonding agency 170 that issues a bonding certificate that verifies the ability of the buyer to pay and the ability of the seller to deliver the goods, see col. 27, line 19 to col. 30, line 29. Payment transfer means are disclosed in col. 21, lines 45-61. Payment by checks is disclosed in col. 20, line 53. Col. 19, lines 54-60 disclose that the seller can transmit the CPO directly to the buyer and then the buyer submits the CPO to the central controller for verification and authentication. Also, the counteroffer procedure disclosed in col. 9, lines 44-51, col. 13, lines 30-35 and col. 22, line 39 to col. 23, line 18 is another situation in which the buyer receives offers from a seller and submits them to the central controller.

Walker et al. also teach a witness system including a first computing means 400 for making document data and a second computing means 300 for confirming the document data and a third computing means 200 for storing in memory the confirmed document data. DES encryption is disclosed in col. 24, line 28.

While Walker et al. teach all the features of the claimed invention, Walker et al. fail to teach the limitation, "confirmation document making means for making a confirmation document by a buyer for each one of a plurality of seller records". On the other hand, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adapt the system of Walker et al. to include a plurality of seller records in order to easily accommodate a plurality of transactions or potential transactions between a buyer and a seller. The limitation of each confirmation/notarization document or payment object "indicating a selected sale and corresponding sales data of at least one item among the plurality of seller records", is also made obvious by Walker

et al. (See for example, Col. 23, lines 6-14) where the buyer decides to bind the counteroffer (i.e., indicate a selected sale of an item) from the seller and transmits the response to the central controller. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include sales data in the confirmation, in order to ensure that all the necessary information and terms of the agreement are present to avoid any misunderstandings.

Re claim 10: It is well known in business to double check statement information with other information, to ensure that there are no mistakes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Walker et al. to have the seller check detailed payment statements against documents stored in memory, to ensure accuracy of the information.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/2/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant's arguments have been addressed in the rejection above.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Ryan Zeender whose telephone number is (703) 308-8351. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alex Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The receptionist's phone number for the Technology center is (571) 272-3600.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

F. Zeender
Primary Examiner, A.U. 3627
May 9, 2006

 5/9/06
F. RYAN ZEENDER
PRIMARY EXAMINER